

# FORESTRY *News*



A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

Winter 2009

**MISSION:** "We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians."

## PINE CONE COLLECTION

*Jerre Creighton, research program manager, forest management division*

In August and September, the tree improvement staff and numerous volunteers from VDOF and elsewhere combined to collect shortleaf, longleaf and loblolly pine cones that will provide seed for future restoration projects and nursery crops.

In late September, 20 bushels of shortleaf cones were collected from the orchard at New Kent Forestry Center. The shortleaf orchard there had been mothballed, but funding through a collaborative project with Virginia State University made it possible to clean

up the orchard; spray it for protection from insects, and rent a lift to reach at least some cones on the more than 80-foot-tall trees. Seed from this effort will be used to install a test to compare seedlings from our orchard to those from other geographic locations. Any seedlings left over can be used for restoration projects. Thanks to Ones Bitoki, Jeff Stout and Edward Washington for heading up the clean-up and collection efforts.

In late September and early October, native Virginia longleaf cones were collected from trees on International Paper's South Quay property south of Franklin, VA. Billy Apperson and G. T. Hendrick led the successful effort to construct access trails and navigate lifts to access more than 70 known native trees from which 61 bushels of cones were collected. Containerized seedlings from this crop will be available over the next several years for reforestation projects in



*The bucket truck in operation picking longleaf cones.*

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Carl Garrison III, State Forester

Janet Muncy, Editor

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## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER

Carl Garrison



As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving; close out another calendar year, and welcome a new Governor and administration, it's about time that we say a few words about a man who has done so much to advance the cause of forestry in the Commonwealth.

For almost five years, since his appointment as Virginia's first-ever Secretary of Forestry and Agriculture, Bob Bloxom has been a tireless champion for our agency and the forest industry. Together with Deputy Secretary Bill Dickinson, Bob has been actively involved in the effort to increase our profile in Richmond. Through his hard work and commitment, he secured no less than five events for VDOF that featured the Governor. This is unprecedented in the 95-year history of our agency!

Bob led the charge to engage the Cooper Center at U.Va. to study the economic impact of forestry in the Commonwealth. At the conclusion of many months of research work, he ensured Gov. Timothy Kaine was there to deliver the news that forestry accounts for 144,000 jobs in Virginia and has an annual financial impact of more than \$27.5 Billion.

When the Governor's tour and meeting with VDOF staff in Charlottesville was cancelled due to circumstances beyond his control, Bob kept pressing for another opportunity. Several months later, Governor Kaine and his cabinet toured HQ; watched with enthusiasm as Brad Whittington's bloodhound, Summer, successfully identified the "suspect" she was after, and met-- both collectively and individually -- with VDOF staff over the course of several hours.

When the dust finally settled after our record-setting fire day (Feb. 10, 2008), Bob made sure that the Governor personally -- and very publicly -- thanked VDOF staff and our partners for their extraordinary efforts in suppressing more than 350 wildland fires that day. Bob also developed a news conference featuring Governor Kaine and Smokey Bear at Capitol Square to alert the public of the start of spring fire season.

When the Governor announced he wanted to conserve 400,000 acres of land in the Commonwealth before 2010, Bob was there once again to ensure VDOF was involved in this important initiative. Because of his leadership, we have acquired or are in the process of closing on more than 20,000 acres of new State Forest land. A few months ago, we celebrated the doubling of the Dragon Run State Forest at a news conference led by Governor Kaine. Once again, Bob Bloxom was the point person for this.

Besides the public accolades he ensured that we received, Bob did much more behind the scenes -- efforts that benefited not just VDOF but forestry overall. As he prepares to return to his beloved Eastern Shore -- after more than 31 years of distinguished public service as both a legislator and Cabinet Secretary -- we extend to him our deepest appreciation; our best wishes for a long and happy retirement, and our lasting respect. We couldn't have asked for a better person to be our first Secretary.



## PINE CONE COLLECTION, FROM PAGE 1...

the original native range of longleaf in Virginia. Thanks also go to Darren Loomis of DCR's Natural Heritage program for his long hours and hard work on this effort, and to volunteers from the Peninsula Chapter of Master Naturalists for help bagging cones.

The largest cone collection program went on at the New Kent Forestry Center between late September and mid October. More than 440 bushels of loblolly pine cones were gathered from 350 trees in our 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle orchard. Seed from these cones will yield some of the fastest-growing and best-formed loblolly seedlings VDOF has ever produced, and will be a significant part of the nursery's crop in 2011. By selecting only the 16 best parent families in the orchard, we should be able to produce a crop that grows up to 50 percent faster than those planted before tree improvement efforts began. Again, the tree improvement staff of Ones Bitoki and Jeff Stout spent many hours and extra effort to make this happen.

The VDOF team spirit contributed greatly to all three of these efforts. Extra thanks are due to all of the VDOF volunteers from FIA, the Eastern and Central Regions, and Headquarters staff, including: Wayne Bowman, Dean Cumbia, Harvey Darden, Jeff Darr, Todd Groh, Bryan Lacey, Bill Lakel, Chad Lykins, Winston Percefull, Donnie Jamerson, Donnie Davis, Dave Schnake, Karen Snape and Larry Woods. Thanks to all for helping to make this a successful cone-picking season.



*GT Hendrick picking longleaf cones.*



*20-bushel crate of loblolly cones from the 3rd cycle orchard.*





*David Tolliver explains water quality protection.*



*John Blankenship taught the students about wildlife.*



*Greg Estoll teaches mensuration.*

## KIDS IN THE WOODS COMES TO THE BREAKS

*Greg Estolle, forester, Tazewell and Buchanan counties, Western Region*

On September 17th, 35 fourth and fifth graders gathered at the Breaks Interstate Park to participate in the inaugural youth educational event called Kids in the Woods. Many folks are used to participating in Kids in the Creek programs focusing on streams, aquatic life and water quality. Well, Tony Pane of DCR had the idea to implement a youth educational event focusing on forestry in Buchanan County. Thus, the Kids in the Woods program came to the Breaks. Michelle Quesenberry (former VDOF Buchanan County technician) originally planned this event for the fall of 2008, but scheduling conflicts pushed it into fire season and the program had to be cancelled at the last minute.

This year, the program went forward and was favorably received by students, teachers and volunteers. The Big Sandy SWCD helped to coordinate the event, provided volunteers, a timekeeper, lunch for all the presenters, and a presenter teaching about tree identification using the VDOF tree identification book and key. John Blankenship, Virginia Cooperative Extension, taught a much-loved station on wildlife with plenty of hides to examine. Bill Worrell, VCE, led a station about silviculture. David Tolliver, VDOF water quality specialist, spoke about water quality; Chris Sullivan, assistant regional forester, and Matt Gordon, Buchanan County technician) showed the students how VDOF fights forest fires and provided information about fire prevention. Greg Estoll, Tazewell and Buchanan counties forester, taught about forest mensuration using a simple tool – a ruler.

Overall, the program went very well, and the kids enjoyed themselves. They even learned a thing or two as seen by a fun oral quiz given to the students afterwards – with a few prizes for correct answers. The plan is to continue this program as an annual event, although we may adjust the grade level of the students for next year to correspond with other educational programs offered by the Big Sandy SWCD.



## WILDLAND FIRE ORIGIN AND CAUSE DETERMINATION CLASS

*Fred Turck and Richard Thomas, assistant directors of resource protection, Resource Protection Division*

During the week of Oct. 5-9, 2009, 29 full-time VDOF field personnel assembled at our New Kent Training Center to take the FI-210 course. This class was first presented to VDOF employees in the fall of 2004, and there has been a class sponsored by the VDOF every year since. A total of 129 full-time VDOF employees have now taken the class. It remains a goal of the Resource Protection Division to have all personnel who are involved in wildland fire investigations to complete this course.

The Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination Training Program is based on current certification standards and training programs for wildland fire investigators put in place by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The FI-210 course was developed by an interagency development group with guidance from the National Interagency Fire Center under the authority of the NWCG.

We have been privileged to have Mike Heath as our lead instructor for each of our FI-210 classes. Mike was on the original interagency development group for the course, representing state forestry agencies. He worked for the South Carolina Forestry Commission as lead investigator, but now presents the class to us as an employee with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA. Mike knows the state perspective of wildland fire investigations, as well as having a very diverse national level of investigation experience.

The FI-210 class is a 36-hour course comprised of eight classroom units, five field labs and one practical field exercise. The field exercise gives teams experience in determining the fire origin using accepted scientific methodology, collecting evidence, conducting interviews and then documenting the case.

One of the most telling quotes we heard after this last class was from an employee with more than 25 years service. "I wish I had this course 20 years ago. I am encouraged and enthusiastic and ready to go out and take a closer look at some of my fires hoping to uncover that piece of evidence that will help find the responsible party. Everybody should take this class."

The Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination FI-210 Class has made a difference to VDOF in giving our wildland fire investigators the expertise and professionalism to perform at an acceptable level on a national basis without regard to geographic boundaries.



*Determining where to start.*



*Evaluating witness interviews.*



*Finally found the origin and cause.*



## ITS RAINING TREES!

*Andrew Brown and Alex Stace, foresters, Halifax County, Central Region*

You may not believe this, but on Oct. 24, 2009, there were trees falling out of the sky at the Southern Virginia Community College. No, this was not a plague that hit Charlotte County, but a governor's school project put on by two local high school students, Graham Bryant and Shawn Yates, with the help of Halifax County foresters, Andrew Brown and Alex Stace. The two students wanted to test different ways of packing loblolly seedlings to aerially reforest stands that are difficult to access. This was an idea inspired by a documentary on the Discovery Channel.

Many packaging ideas were considered, including paper mache, sugar glass and even a canister made of peanut brittle. While those ideas were proven to be entirely too time consuming and impractical, the two main delivery methods tested were a cheesecloth-wrapped soil ball and a variation that was dipped in wax. The idea behind this was to help the trees land root side down; give them some mass to help the seedling penetrate the ground, and have a biodegradable medium for the root growth until they made it into the ground. The wax around the cheesecloth was an attempt to keep moisture near the roots.



Since Phil Carpenter was not available to drop 50 trees from our airplane, we got the next best thing: a 50-foot boom lift that was generously provided by Bo's Hydraulic in South Boston. We took the lift up to the Southern Virginia Community College in Keysville one cold, wet morning, and got ready to drop these trees on a tilled field. After making sure there was no lightning in the sky, Graham and Shawn went up in the lift and started lobbing trees down. When we got to the control trees (just bare roots seedlings), the wind was not in our favor, and the trees kept blowing off the site. After quickly moving the lift to an upwind position, they were able to finish out their experiment. The students also planted some trees the old fashioned way, but this was not nearly as entertaining.



Since the governor's school project has to be finished up by March, the students will not get a full growing season to watch the fruits of their labor. They will be measuring survival rate, height and mass and comparing this to the initial

*continued on page 7*



## IT'S RAINING TREES, FROM PAGE 6...

measurements. They will then be writing up a paper on their experiment and presenting it at a symposium. If this project is a success, the VDOF might have to issue parachutes and air sickness bags as PPE to its employees.



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

*Dennis Anderson, forester, Floyd County, Western Region*

During the normal course of our job, we traverse and inspect more private property than any other local, state or federal agency. While inspecting logging jobs, stewardship plans, reinspections and even firefighting, we see, and sometimes overlook, many natural and cultural resources that represent our natural and historical legacy. It benefits us and our landowners to observe and identify all the resources of each particular tract.

The Department of Historic Resources mission is to foster, encourage and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historical, architectural, archaeological and cultural resources. The Department of Historic Resources can assist us in three ways:

First, it is an excellent source of information for historic resources. Its Web site, [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov), contains extensive resources, including a state-wide database of sites throughout the state. There is a page where we or a landowner can submit an archaeological site inventory form that identifies a significant sites, such as cemeteries, Civil War earthworks, prehistoric sites and old house sites.

Secondly, the Department of Historic Resources administers cost-share money for threatened sites. These include sites endangered by erosion, development and vandalism. They also have grants, Civil War site preservation funds and rehabilitation tax credits.

Finally, many of us have a box filled with arrowheads or minié balls that we have collected. The Department of Historic Resources Web site has an identification page for the various projectile point types found throughout the state.

As conservation officers, it is important to support the cataloging of these sites and make our landowners aware of the historic resources on their property and the resources available to preserve and protect the cultural sites of the Commonwealth.



## FIREWISE IN BOTETOURT COUNTY

*Jon Willoughby, technician specialist, Botetourt County, Western Region*

One more community in Virginia is a bit safer these days after many of the homeowners participated in a Firewise Awareness Program presented by VDOF officials Aug. 18, 2009.

Residents of the rural community of Oriskany, in the northwestern portion of Botetourt County, invited three VDOF staffers and two officials from the county to spend several hours educating them on what actions they could take to make their homes and their community less susceptible to the ravages of a wildland fire. Forest Technician Specialist Jon Willoughby, Fire Mitigation Specialist Brad Wright, RC&D Forester David Richert, Botetourt County Training Specialist Joey Bona and Botetourt County Emergency Services Coordinator David Firestone led the training effort.

"With more than 20 residents in attendance, it was a great turnout for such a small community," said Willoughby. "These folks were genuinely interested in the Firewise program and what it could do for them. And they asked some great questions!"



The program covered such topics as: fire laws; the wildland-urban interface; landowner services; forest management, and grant programs available to communities located within three miles of national forestland.

After two full hours of discussion, many of the residents still wanted more. They spent additional time talking individually with Willoughby. When they left, they took with them brochures on Safe Debris Burning; Outdoor Fire Laws; Firewise Communities in Virginia, and Services to Landowners.

Plans are already underway to offer this successful program to other communities in Botetourt County.



## VDOF EMPLOYEES CREATE LOCAL VGEA CHAPTER

*Dennis Gaston, forester, Eastern State Forests*

Have you ever wondered if there was anything you could do to prevent your health benefits from being reduced? Or what you could have done to raise your salary to the level it should be?

If you answered yes, then it's time for you to take action. The power lies in your hands to bring these issues and more into the spotlight and fight for what we, as VDOF employees, feel is right.

In 2007, the Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA) decentralized and sought greater involvement from local chapters as a grassroots, member-driven body. Local chapters can be organized on any reasonable basis, including geographical area, scope of work or agency-wide. VDOF employees are forming just such a chapter because of the opportunity to focus attention on the work we do and the specific issues that we face. As a small state agency, we often get lost in a sea of voices. Sometimes, it seems the impacts on us aren't fully understood. Regardless of the size of our agency, we perform vital and important work, and we should be better focused in expressing our position as a body of VDOF employees.

Having a local VDOF chapter will enable us to:

- ◆ Identify and promote interests of VDOF employees;
- ◆ Provide a forum for the discussion of ideas;
- ◆ Focus on specific VDOF needs, and
- ◆ Give us a better voice with state delegates and senators.

Many state agencies already have a VGEA local chapter to represent their needs. It's time we act. In fact, it's past time!

We have 38 VDOF employees who are members of VGEA. Kenny Mohler, technician in Rockbridge County, has agreed to act as the president and Leslie Mace, technician in Pittsylvania County, as the vice-president until such time that we can organize an election. Another small group of members has committed to work towards the formation of this local chapter. We need you to help by joining the chapter.

If you are a VGEA member, all you have to do is call. There are no local chapter dues. If you're not a member of VGEA yet, join up at [www.vgea.org](http://www.vgea.org) and then call. Meetings need to take place only a minimum of one time per year, and they can be via conference call. We need your ideas, your opinions and your interest in your own future.

Call Kenny Mohler at 540.463.5253 to join our growing crowd. This is your opportunity to allow your ideas, thoughts and dreams to be heard and acted on. If you decide not to join, you risk having nobody to listen to your concerns. Make the call!



### NEW ARRIVALS!

**Heather and Zach Dowling** on the birth of their first child. (Heather is the forester for Dinwiddie County in the Eastern Region and Zack is the forester for Sussex County in the Eastern Region.) Their daughter, Katie Faye Dowling, was born October 2, weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19" long. Everyone is doing great.

**Kevin Keith**, forester for Henry County in the Western Region, and wife, Tabitha, welcomed a new baby into their family. Mason Thomas Keith was born October 27 weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Mason joins big sister, Madelyn, and big brother, Mitchell. Mom, dad and baby Mason are all doing great.

**Todd Edgerton**, forest health forester in the Forest Resource Management Division, and wife, Tracy, welcomed a baby boy into their family. Potter Jones Edgerton was born November 6 weighing 7 pounds, 1.5 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. His parents are doing great and want to thank everyone for their support these past nine months. Congratulations to the whole family.

**Joe Rossetti**, forester for Fauquier County in the Central Region, and wife, Gina, welcomed their first baby. Daughter, Abriella Lynn, was born October 20. She is healthy and happy and has Dad wrapped around her finger already!

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Joe Street**, information systems manager in the Information Technology Division, is serving as the acting director of the Information Technology Division while we are recruiting to fill the position. Thank you, Joe, for stepping into this acting role.

**Tracy McDonald**, FIA specialist in the Forest Resource Management Division, transferred into the program support technician position for the Central Region. Tracy, we wish you all the best in your new position.

**Ryan Hewitt**, FIA specialist for the western part of Virginia, transferred to the FIA specialist position for the north central part of Virginia. We wish him all the best in his new work location.

**Kristi Woodie**, receptionist for the Headquarters building, is now a program support technician supporting the General Services and Public Information Divisions. The Headquarters phone system has been changed to an automated system, allowing more time for additional duties while she retains her receptionist and mail room duties.

**Debbie Luna**, program support technician in the General Services Division, is now providing support to the Forestland Conservation Division as well as part of the General Services Division.

**Chuck Wright**, forester for Goochland and Fluvanna Counties, is switching regions. Currently, Fluvanna County is in the Central Region and Goochland County is in the Eastern Region. Justin Barnes, technician for Goochland and Fluvanna Counties, is part of the Central Region and Chuck is part of the Eastern Region. To simplify things, Goochland County has moved into the Central Region.

The agency is considering adding a Recreation Forester to the State Forests to assist in developing recreational opportunities for the public. To determine the effectiveness of this position, **Erik Filep**, forester specialist for Orange County in the Central Region, has agreed to step into this position on an acting basis. Erik will serve as the acting recreation forester for the State Forests through October 24, 2011. At that time, the agency will decide whether to make the position regular.

**Ed Furlow**, technician specialist for Orange County in the Central Region, has agreed to serve as the acting forester for Orange County through October 24, 2011.

### RETIREMENTS

**Clara Rowe**, program support technician in the Eastern Region, is retiring January 1, 2010. Clara started work as a clerk stenographer in 1985, became an office service specialist and is now a program support technician. She has worked in the Tappahannock Office throughout her career. The years have brought a lot of changes, but Clara has remained steadfast and cheerful. She and her husband, Rodger, look forward to spending more time with the family. Best wishes, Clara, for a long, happy and healthy retirement!

### DEPARTURES

**Shannon Lawrence**, program support technician in the Central Region, left VDOF October 2 to accept a position as a medical assistant. Shannon, we wish you all the best in your new position and with nursing school.

### CONDOLENCES

**Kenny Thomas**, technician specialist for Lee County in the Western Region, tragically lost his parents in a house fire October 2. Kenny, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Mike Salyer**, technician for Wise County in the Western Region, lost his stepfather, John Henry Johnson, who died of cancer September 19. Mike, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Jeff Hensley**, trades utilities technician at Headquarters, on the death of his grandmother, Frances Birkhead. Mrs. Birkhead died October 3 at age 85. Our condolences to the you and your family.

Lon Hogge Jr. was killed in a car accident November 7. He is the son of **Lon Hogge Sr.**, deceased mechanic for the New Kent Forestry Center. Lon Hogge Jr. was 24 years of age, just short of his 25th birthday November 27. Our deepest condolences to mom, Julia Hogge.



### HELLO FROM THE PHILIPPINES!

Bart Pfautz, former technician in Chesterfield County, left VDOF to join the Peace Corps with wife, Jeannie. They are stationed in the Philippines and send VDOF greetings:

Hello All,

Sorry it has been such a long time and I haven't emailed before now. Life has been a little quick the past couple months. Jeannie and I arrived in the Philippines August 21st. We are on the island of Leyte, far away from Manila and any flooding. It is obviously very different here, but there are also many more similarities with the U.S. than I expected. I'm in an Internet café right now, for instance, and it is only about 10 minutes from my house. We do eat fried garlic rice and fish for breakfast though and that's quite a bit different. Overall things are great. We did a mangrove planting for a community project – much different than planting in Virginia. Hope all is well back home and with all of you. If you are interested in looking at pictures and an occasional write-up, go to the following site:

<http://pfautzsinthephilippines.shutterfly.com/>



Thomas Pleasants ~ 12/1 (Ret.)  
Joyce M. Landram ~ 12/3 (FC)  
Leslie C. Mace ~ 12/5 (CR)  
William B. Carlton ~ 12/6 (ER)  
Patricia F. Nylander ~ 12/7 (CR)  
Lewis F. Southard ~ 12/7 (Ret.)  
Robert W. Stempel ~ 12/9 (ER)  
Jason T. Upton ~ 12/9 (ER)  
John C. Hisghman ~ 12/11 (CR)  
Wayne F. Bowman ~ 12/12 (HQ)  
William E. Perry ~ 12/12 (CR)  
Justin E. Funk ~ 12/13 (CR)  
Donald L. Foster ~ 12/14 (Ret.)  
Jeffrey L. Hensley ~ 12/14 (HQ)  
James F. Wagner ~ 12/14 (Ret.)  
James H. Blackwell ~ 12/17 (ER)  
Daniel B. Fortune ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
Ronald S. Jenkins ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
David K. Nabers ~ 12/18 (HQ)  
Henry E. Womack ~ 12/21 (CR)  
Carl E. Garrison ~ 12/22 (HQ)  
Everette L. Kline ~ 12/22 (HQ)

R. Brad Whittington ~ 12/23 (CR)  
James W. Bright ~ 12/24 (Ret.)  
W. Chad Austin ~ 12/26 (WR)  
Ellen R. Powell ~ 12/27 (HQ)  
Thomas Callahan ~ 12/28 (HQ)  
John M. Carroll ~ 12/30 (HQ)  
Thomas W. Reeves ~ 12/30 (CR)  
Walter Washington ~ 12/30 (Ret.)  
J. Riley Bruce ~ 12/31 (WR)  
Patrick M. Murphy ~ 12/31 (CR)  
Keith P. Brown ~ 1/5 (HQ)  
Edwina B. Blalock ~ 1/7 (HQ)  
Phil T. Grimm ~ 1/7 (Ret.)  
Matthew D. Kimbler ~ 1/10 (WR)  
Richard K. Steensma ~ 1/12 (ER)  
James B. Timberlake ~ 1/12 (Ret.)  
Jon A. Willoughby ~ 1/13 (WR)  
Janet R. Muncy ~ 1/14 (HQ)  
Thomas W. Zebst ~ 1/14 (SF)  
Neal T. Oberholtzer ~ 1/15 (CR)  
T. Kem Pace ~ 1/15 (WR)  
Sandra K. Stephens ~ 1/15 (CR)  
Mary L. Mead ~ 1/16 (Ret.)  
John A. Brooks ~ 1/17 (ER)  
Todd A. Kready ~ 1/17 (WR)  
Matthew H. Coleman ~ 1/19 (ER)  
Alan T. Sutherlin ~ 1/19 (ER)  
Alan D. Craft ~ 1/20 (Ret.)  
Kirby A. Woolfolk ~ 1/20 (CR)  
Rita D. Moore ~ 1/21 (HQ)

Donald R. Jamerson ~ 1/22 (HQ)  
Trent G. Badgley ~ 1/24 (HQ)  
David H. Terwilliger ~ 1/25 (ER)  
Terrance J. Lasher ~ 1/26 (CR)  
E. Edward Stoots ~ 1/28 (WR)  
Rodger L. Moyers ~ 1/29 (CR)  
D. David Snyder ~ 1/30 (CR)  
Carolyn S. Morris ~ 1/31 (Ret.)  
David J. Houttekier ~ 2/1 (ER)  
Ricky A. Butler ~ 2/2 (CR)  
Joseph P. Hancock ~ 2/2 (Ret.)  
John W. Campbell ~ 2/4 (HQ)  
William A. Lakel ~ 2/4 (HQ)  
Alexander J. Stace ~ 2/4 (CR)  
A. John Wright ~ 2/7 (WR)  
Christopher Clayton ~ 2/8 (CR)  
Janet W. Barr ~ 2/9 (Ret.)  
Justin M. Dillon ~ 2/9 (WR)  
Roger C. Roberts ~ 2/9 (Ret.)  
B. Blair Dalton ~ 2/12 (CR)  
Neva Hodges ~ 2/13 (Ret.)  
Connie H. Young ~ 2/13 (FC)  
Edward L. Embrey ~ 2/15 (Ret.)  
John D. Miller ~ 2/16 (HQ)  
James W. Cox ~ 2/20 (ER)  
William L. Saunders ~ 2/21 (Ret.)  
M. Barbara White ~ 2/22 (HQ)  
Robert C. Kennedy ~ 2/24 (Ret.)  
William R. Miller ~ 2/24 (WR)  
Martha E. D. Warring ~ 2/26 (CR)  
Jason A. Braunstein ~ 2/27 (HQ)

C. Kenneth Doss ~ 2/28 (WR)  
Douglas E. Audley ~ 2/29 (CR)  
Bradley W. Carico ~ 3/1 (WR)  
Lisa R. Deaton ~ 3/2 (HQ)  
Dwight H. Stallard ~ 3/2 (FC)  
Jay S. Bassett ~ 3/3 (ER)  
Gregory P. O'Donnell ~ 3/3 (HQ)  
Mary H. Frazier ~ 3/5 (HQ)  
Cynthia M. Bronner ~ 3/6 (ER)  
Phyllis F. Carruthers ~ 3/6 (Ret.)  
Karen E. Stanley ~ 3/6 (WR)  
John W. Kauffman ~ 3/7 (CR)  
John R. Talbert ~ 3/8 (CR)  
Larry N. Wood ~ 3/9 (ER)  
Bryant A. Bays ~ 3/10 (CR)  
James W. Harris ~ 3/10 (Ret.)  
Gary A. Heiser ~ 3/12 (SF)  
Kathleen A. Ogilvy ~ 3/12 (ER)  
G. Shannon Lewis ~ 3/13 (CR)  
Harold A. Fisher ~ 3/14 (CR)  
Rodney W. Keenon ~ 3/14 (Ret.)  
Richard D. Reuse ~ 3/15 (ER)  
Todd A. Groh ~ 3/18 (HQ)  
Deborah M. Howe ~ 3/18 (HQ)  
Bruce D. Harmon ~ 3/19 (CR)  
James A. Pugh ~ 3/19 (HQ)  
David E. Queen ~ 3/21 (HQ)  
Richard Holman ~ 3/23 (SF)  
Michael C. Womack ~ 3/29 (SF)  
Rodney T. Newlin ~ 3/31 (CR)  
W. Houston Roberts ~ 3/31 (CR)



April 16, 2009

Dear Mr. Garrison,

So often these days, the Forestry Department is bombarded with criticisms and complaints - no one seems satisfied with anything the Department does. But I want to bring to your attention one of your own who is doing outstanding work for the VDOP in Buckingham County, and I know I am not alone in recognizing his good work. Whether it is in organizing the fight with a high wind and acres of brush on fire, or in checking the progress of Buckingham's only "cash crop" - trees - Mr. H. Gwynn Tyler is on site with his assistant Billy Hall.

But I did not have the slightest idea of all the Department of Forestry offers until I asked Mr. Tyler what to do with my 118 acres of stump growth. I was half joking because I was sure there is absolutely nothing that can be done with such a situation except burn it down, plow it up and hope for the best. Please imagine my surprise and delight when I received in the mail a detailed description of my property; a beautifully drawn map showing elevations and areas of swamp; as well as the few spots of salvageable trees, and a detailed analysis of the situation, with three options to choose from. In a few short pages, Mr. Tyler showed me the

actual situation; the good points; the bad points, and the financial considerations (which took in my age and abilities). I finally could see what I should be doing.

I cannot begin to tell you what an enormous relief it was to me. Here, one hears about tree farms and tree values and the best use of one's acreage, and for five years I have worried over what to do with my resources. Because of the fine work of Mr. Tyler and his assistant, I can sleep nights.

I have spoken to many people about Mr. Tyler's work, and I've found that I am certainly not alone in receiving his help. Truly, I do not know what we would do without his quiet presence in this county. I know he will not "blow his own horn" - so I will do it for him! Thank you, Mr. Garrison, for sending us Mr. Tyler and Mr. Hall. We need them!

Sincerely,

JaneAnn H. Crouse

Gladstone, VA

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The deadlines are as follows:

**Spring Issue -- February 1, 2010**

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2010

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2010

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2010

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11/2009